

Abstract

A clip applying apparatus is provided which includes a jaw mechanism supported within and extending from the distal end of a body portion of the apparatus. The jaw mechanism includes a proximal body portion, first and second shank members and first and second jaw members. The first and second shank members extend distally from the proximal body portion of the jaw mechanism. The first and second jaw members are supported on the distal end of the first and second shank members and are configured to receive a ligation clip therebetween. In one embodiment, each jaw is curved upwardly towards its distal end along the longitudinal axis of the body portion and has a radius of curvature "r" of between about 0.5 inch and about 0.9 inch. In another embodiment, r is about 0.7 inch. A method for accessing and ligating tissue is also disclosed wherein the clip applying apparatus described above is positioned adjacent tissue to be ligated and the jaws are moved between the tissue to be ligated and surrounding tissue to manipulate and/or reposition the tissue. The jaw mechanism can be rotated to position the tissue to be ligated between the first and second jaws to ligate and/or crimp a ligation clip about the tissue to be ligated.